

1925.



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# Annual Report

OF THE

## Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

### Borough of

### Clifton Dartmouth Hardness.

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DARTMOUTH:

PRINTED BY W. J. ELLIS, VICTORIA ROAD.



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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
For 1925.

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*To His Worship the Mayor and the Aldermen and Councillors  
of the Borough of Clifton Dartmouth Hardness.*

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GENTLEMEN,

In accordance with my statutory duties I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report upon the Health of the Inhabitants, and the Sanitary condition of the Borough. The Report also contains details of the administration of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, as required by the Secretary of State for the Home Department.

The ancient Borough of Clifton Dartmouth Hardness is situated on the west bank of the river Dart—one of the most beautiful Estuaries on the Coast. The Town is largely triangular in shape, the base being the bank of the river, the apex extending up the valley to the westward for nearly a mile. A number of houses being built upon what was a creek, which has been filled in, the lower part which near to the river is below the high water mark and is very liable to flooding in rainy weather with storm water, when the spring tides are up.

The houses on the sides of the hills are built in rows rising tier above tier with access up very steep roads or by means of flights of steps, and being an old Town, many of these houses are of very old type, some being about 300 years old, and are indiscriminately crowded in together, without any regard to air space.

The chief industry of the Town is naturally produced by the shipping which comes to the Port to take in bunker coal; some yachts come into the Harbour in the summer, but very few now, as compared with past years. There is an engineering works which when in full swing employs many men. There is also a large influx of visitors to the Town in the summer, especially trippers, to see the beauties of the place and take the trips up the river. There is also the usual business and market of a small country Town.

The Royal Naval College also is situated on the hill in the Borough, to which is attached a very large staff and should be described as one of the chief assets of the Town.

Area in acres—1925.

Population (census 1921)—7219.

Estimated population to middle of 1926—

For deaths—6799; for births—7499.

Number of inhabited houses—1183.

Number of persons per family—4·4.

Number of persons per house—6·1.

Rateable Value—£38,050.

Public debt—£23,536.

Sum represented by a penny rate—£147.

Poor Law Relief during the year 1925 was as follows: 76 men, 109 women, 165 children; total 350 in receipt of Parish Relief, at a cost of £1987/17/0.

#### BIRTHS.

During the year, 110 (44 males and 66 females) births have been registered, giving an annual birth rate of 17·3 per 1000 of estimated population. The birth rate for England and Wales is 18·3.

#### Births since 1920.

	M	F	Total	per 1000
1920—Legitimate	71	74	146	10·7
—Illegitimate	—	—	—	—
1921—Legitimate	73	51	124	17·2
—Illegitimate	2	3	5	0·6
1922—Legitimate	65	52	117	16·7
—Illegitimate	2	3	5	0·6
1923—Legitimate	60	57	117	16·0
—Illegitimate	3	1	4	0·54
1924—Legitimate	53	60	113	15·5
—Illegitimate	1	1	2	0·27
1925—Legitimate	44	66	110	17·3
—Illegitimate	0	2	2	0·26

	1920				1921				1922				1923				1924				1925			
	M	Per 1000	F	Per 1000	M	Per 1000	F	Per 1000	M	Per 1000	F	Per 1000	M	Per 1000	F	Per 1000	M	Per 1000	F	Per 1000	M	Per 1000	F	Per 1000
ALL CAUSES.	37	5·8	26	4·1	44	6·8	47	7·2	35	5·4	35	5·4	43	6·5	38	5·7	48	7·1	50	7·4	31	4·7	23	3·3
Enteric Fever ...					1	0·15																		
Small Pox ...																								
Measles ...																								
Scarlet Fever ...	1	0·16																						
Whooping Cough ...			1	0·16					1	0·15	0		1	0·15			1	0·14						
Diphtheria ...	2	0·32	1	0·16																				
Influenza ...					1	0·15			1	0·15	2	0·30					3	0·42	4	0·56			1	0·14
Encephalitis Lethargica ...																								
Meningococcal Meningitis ...																								
Tuberculosis, Respiratory ...	2	0·32	1	0·16	5	0·75	3	0·45	3	0·45	3	0·45	3	0·45	3	0·45	3	0·42	2	0·28	1	0·14	2	0·28
Other Tuberculous Diseases					8	1·2	3	0·45									2	0·28						
Cancer, Malignant Disease ...	4	0·64	10	1·6	2	0·30	7	1·05	5	0·75	4	0·60	5	0·75	5	0·75	3	0·42	6	0·84	6	0·84	2	0·28
Rheumatic Fever ...							1	0·15					1	0·15			1	0·14						
Diabetes ...	1	0·16											1	0·15			3	0·42	1	0·14	2	0·28	1	0·14
Cerebral Haemorrhage ...	2	0·32	2	0·32			1	0·15	2	0·30	2	0·30	3	0·45	1	0·15	4	0·56	2	0·28	2	0·28	1	0·14
Heart Disease ...	2	0·32	5	0·8	7	1·05	6	0·9	6	0·90	4	0·60	3	0·45	9	1·35	7	0·98	2	0·28	2	0·28	2	0·28
Arterio-Sclerosis ...	4	0·64	1	0·16	6	0·9	3	0·45	5	0·75	7	1·05	3	0·45	5	0·75	3	0·42	10	1·40	2	0·28	4	0·56
Bronchitis ...	2	0·32	1	0·16			5	0·75			1	0·15	3	0·45	2	0·30			2	0·28			4	0·56
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	2	0·32			3	0·45	1	0·15			1	0·15	4	0·60	1	0·15	4	0·56	1	0·14	2	0·28		
Other Respiratory Diseases ...					1	0·15			1	0·15							1	0·14	2	0·28				
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	0·32									1	0·15	1	0·15							1	0·14		
Diarrhoea, etc., (under 2 years)					1	0·15					1	0·15					2	0·28	2	0·28				
Appendicitis and Typhlitis ...							1	0·15					3	0·45			1	0·14			1	0·14		
Cirrhosis of Liver ...															1	0·15								
Acute and Chronic Nephritis...	3	0·48			3	0·45	4	0·60	1	0·15			1	0·15			1	0·14	2	0·28			1	0·14
Puerperal Sepsis ...																								
Other Accidents and Diseases of																								
Pregnancy and Parturition...																							1	0·14
Congenital Debility and Malfor-																								
mation, Premature Birth ...					1	0·15	2	0·30			2	0·30	3	0·45	2	0·30	0		3	0·42	1	0·14	1	0·14
Suicide ...	2	0·32							1	0·15														
Other Deaths from Violence ...	1	0·16	1	0·16					1	0·15			1	0·15			2	0·28	2	0·28	1	0·14		
Other Defined Diseases ...	3	0·48	10	1·6	5	0·75	10	1·50	7	1·05	7	1·05	6	0·90	9	1·35	7	0·98	11	1·54	10	1·40	3	0·42
Causes ill-defined or unknown									1	0·15			1	0·15										





## DEATHS.

54 deaths were registered during the year, viz : 36 males and 23 females, giving a death rate of 7.9 per 1000 per annum of the estimated population.

## Deaths since 1920 :

Year	Male	Female	Total	per 1000
1920	40	28	68	10.6
1921	44	47	91	14.1
1922	35	35	70	10.7
1923	43	38	81	12.3
1924	48	50	98	14.6
1925	31	23	54	7.9

This is the lowest death rate in the Borough for many years. The death rate for England and Wales being 12.2 per 1000.

The average age of persons who died during 1925 is 67 years. The Zymotic death rate for the year is nil.

The records of the causes of deaths in the District are as tabulated on the attached sheet.

## Natural increase: viz., the number of births more than deaths:

1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
89	33	33	36	15	55

## Inquests.

1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
6	0	2	4	7	3

## Number of women dying in or in consequence of child birth.

1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
0	0	0	0	0	1

No deaths from Sepsis, but one after an operation. Cæsarian Section.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age, 5, viz : males, 1, females, 4. 2 caused by Menengitis ; 1 caused by Pneumonia,

1 caused by Congenital Heart disease, 1 caused by Bronchitis, giving an infantile death rate of 45.4 per 1000, legitimate births. 1 illegitimate child has died during the year.

M	F	Total	per 1000 births
1920—5	3	8	54.1
1921—2	2	4	32.2
1922—2	4	6	47.2
1923—5	5	10	42.7
1924—1	3	4	34.7
1925—1	4	5	46.4

  

Deaths from Measles at all ages	...	0
„ Whooping Cough	...	0
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	0

#### MATERNITY AND INFANT WELFARE.

Dr. Eleanor Cadman, who is in medical charge of the Welfare, reports : that the Welfare Centre is held at the Council Schools, Higher Street, Dartmouth, where there are two rooms provided, one of which is devoted to the social side, the other is screened off into two portions, one of which is used as the weighing room and the other as the Medical Officer's room for examination of the children. All necessary cases are visited by the Health Visitor at the houses of the children.

There are about 12 voluntary workers who assist in the social room and attend to the distribution of Virol and Glaxo, etc.

No. of sessions	No. of Mothers	No. of Children	Number of attendances		
	on books	on books	Mothers	Children	Infants
45	75	150	881	401	663

The County staff has paid about 6 visits during the year.

Since September, lectures have been given every fortnight to the mothers on Ante-Natal Treatment and Child Welfare, and a lecture on Health in the House was given during Health Week.

There is no Maternity Home or other Institution for the reception of expectant nursing mothers and young children as inpatients.

The incidence of Maternal Mortalty, Still Birth and Infant death is very small, regarding the mothers, there has been no death from Puerperal troubles. The 1 death that occurred was after a cæsarean section operation in a case of obstructed labour.

There has been no Still Births.

#### TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
			M	F			M	F
0								
1								
5								
10								
15					1			
20				1				
25		1						
35								
45		1						
55								
65 & up.						1		
Totals	0	2	0	1	1	1	0	0

Notices have been given to the Milk Sellers as to the employment of Tubercular persons to handle and deliver milk. There is no infected person employed thus in the District.

No case has arisen in which it has been necessary to take action under sect. 62, P.H.A., 1925.

The summary of Cases notified since 1920, is:

	Cases reported	Died
1920	38	8
1921	21	9
1922	7	1
1923	12	6
1924	12	4
1925	3	0

The ratio of Deaths to notification is 2.3.

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASE (other than Tuberculosis) during 1925.

Disease	Total cases Notified	Cases ad- mitted to Hospital	Total Deaths	Ages
Small Pox	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	4	1	0	6, 7, 15, 24
Diphtheria	1	1	0	22
Enteric Fever includ- ing Paratyphon ...	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	7	0	2	28, 48, 60, 61, 64, 61, 80
Other Diseases, gen- erally notifiable	—	—	—	—
Other Diseases, noti- fiable locally (Chicken Pox)	9	0	0	10, 3, 11, 12, 5 7, 15, 5, 6

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The prevalance of Infectious disease during the period from 1920 has not been great, with the exception of an epidemic of Diphtheria in 1920, and a large number of Pneumonias due to Influenza in 1924.

	1920		1921		1922		1923		1924		1925	
	No.	Deaths	No.	Deaths	No.	Deaths	No.	Deaths	No.	Deaths	No.	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	2	1	4	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	4	0
Diphtheria	26	14	8	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Malaria	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	0
Erysipelas	4	0	7	0	3	0	3	0	2	0	0	0
Pneumonia	1	0	1	0	1	0	4	1	56	5	7	0
Typhoid	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	2	1	0	0
Encephalitis												
Lethargica	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ophthalmia												
Neonatorum	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chicken Pox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	9	0

There is a supply Diphtheria Ante Toxin provided by the Council for use in needy cases, and I find it is regularly and speedily used by the Practitioners, Specimens and Swabs, in

almost every case are sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Exeter, and examined; the report being returned by wire or telephone in the event of its being positive, and the cases are removed to the Isolation Hospital at Jawbones or to Paignton, where arrangements are made for the reception of patients. No use so far has been made of the Schiek and Dick Tests in Diphtheria or Scarlet Fever.

#### HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

There is a Cottage Hospital containing 12 beds, which is supported by voluntary contributions, to which adults and children are admitted for medical or surgical disabilities, also any special Maternity cases are taken in. Patients are also sent to Hospitals at Plymouth, Exeter and Torquay, when necessary.

Infectious cases are sent to Paignton Infectious Hospital by arrangement, although there is a small Isolation Hospital maintained by the Council situated  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles out of the Town.

Small Pox cases would be sent direct to the County Small Pox Hospital which was contemplated, and is now, I believe, in existence. There is no accommodation for such cases at Dartmouth.

There is no provision of Ambulance for accidents and non infectious cases in the Borough beyond the Hospital Stretcher, but an Ambulance can easily be procured from Torquay or Plymouth by phone message if one is required.

There is an old fashioned four wheel covered horse drawn Ambulance in which Infectious cases are taken to the Dartmouth Infectious Hospital, but it is hopelessly out of date. If an Infectious case is being sent to Paignton Isolation Hospital a motor Ambulance is always sent for the case.

#### DISINFECTION.

There is a steam disinfector which has been used 5 times during the year for the disinfection of clothing and bedding after Infectious cases and Tuberculosis. Premises are usually fumigated with formalin by the Sanitary Inspector after Infection.

Part IV. of the P.H.A., 1925 (Verminous Premises and Persons) has not yet been adopted, but proceedings are being taken to do so.

The Public Health Officers of the Council are:

Dr. John H. Harris, M.D., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health  
(part time),  
Dr. Eleanor Cadman, M.B.C.M., Maternity & Child Welfare  
(part time),  
Alfred J. Willett, M.R.S.I., Sanitary Inspector (part time),  
to each of whose services contributions are made under the  
Public Health Acts.

#### PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

1 District Nurse, provided by the Local Committee, and supported by voluntary contributions.  
She visits and attends the sick in their own homes when sent for, but does not attend Infectious Cases or Midwifery.

There are also private trained nurses resident in the Town, who are available when required, and nurses are available from Torquay and Paignton, but there is no nursing provided by the Council for general and Infectious disease.

There is only one registered midwife in the Borough and she is getting a very old woman. No subsidy is given by the Local Authority for this woman.

#### LABORATORY WORKS.

Chemical Analysis of water and food is made by the County Analyst and Pathological and Bacteriological examinations are made at the County Laboratory, Exeter.

List of Adoptive Acts, Bye-laws and Local Regulations in the District with the date of Adoption :

Nuisances	31/7/97
Slaughter Houses	28/11/81
New Streets and Buildings	13/7/97
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	12/12/99
Pleasure Grounds	
Cemetery	
P.H. (Amend) Act, 1890 }	
Parts I., II., III., V. }	

#### SCHOOLS.

There are 4 Public Schools in the Town, viz: the 2 Council Schools, 1 Secondary School and 1 Roman Catholic School. They are now in a Sanitary up-to-date condition, they have all been inspected during the year.



The number of Vaccinations done in the Borough by the Public Vaccinator and other Practitioners are as follows :

Vaccinated	...	61
Insusceptible	...	—
Conscientious objectors	...	49
Died unvaccinated	...	3
Postponed as unfit	...	2
Removed out of district	...	2
		<hr/>
		117
		<hr/>

No revaccinations have been done by Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Small Pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

#### SANITARY INSPECTION OF AREA.

The Bake-Houses have been visited and inspected. There are 12 in the Borough. 48 visits have been paid; 5 were found to be defective, with the exception of 4 or 5, the remainder are old fashioned bake houses, not at all up-to-date, and there is a great tendency to use them as store places for material not connected with the baking of bread. The white-washing of some of these places is overdue.

There are 33 Dairies and Milkshops, &c., 142 inspections have been made, and 8 cases of defects have been discovered. The Milk Shops are chiefly general shops where other commodities of all sorts are sold, and although the Milk Department is placed in a separate part of the shop there is always the possibility of contamination of any milk retained in the pans, although the greater portion is distributed to the different customers houses as soon as it comes in from the farms.

The Cowsheds are chiefly of the old fashioned stable type, attached to the farms, in no way up-to-date, and cleanliness is not a prominent feature.

#### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

**Milk Supply** The quality of milk supplied to the Borough for consumption, is on the whole, very good, and is brought into the Town from the surrounding farms to the milk sellers who deliver it to the customers from door to door by cans and direct into the milk jug and some by sealed bottles.

All Milk Sellers are registered and the Milk Shops inspected at intervals. There are 25 names on the register.

Regulations, dated 13.10.99, came in force 1.1.00, with respect to Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops are still in force.

No action has been taken or order issued under sect. 3, of the Milk and Dairies (Consolidation of 1915, no Licences have been granted and no refusals made for the sale of Milk under special designations), and no Bacteriological examinations has been made of graded and other milk.

## MEAT.

The arrangements for the Inspection of meat at the time of slaughter is, for the Medical Officer to attend at the slaughter houses on receiving notice from the butchers. Since the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, have been in force (April 1st, 1925) I have received 323 notices of killing from the butchers, and have visited and inspected at the slaughter houses on 212 occasions. The conditions of the Regulations have been carried out in a very half-hearted manner by the butchers. The meat is still hung out side the shop so that it can be contaminated by passers by, dust, &c., those who have glass fronts invariably have the shop front open during business hours. The special clothing for carrying meat is in most cases conspicuous by its absence. Shops and vehicles are fairly clean but there is room for much improvement, especially some of the shops. Any meat diseased or condemned, is generally voluntarily surrendered. A certificate given for compensation if due, and the meat destroyed in the public Incinerator. There has been 7 seizures of meat and 397lbs of beef have been destroyed.

There are 3 public and 3 private slaughter houses in the Borough. They are all situated on Jawbones Hill, in close proximity to each other. Only 1 of the public slaughter houses is let. These places require a great deal of supervision as cleanliness does not seem to be one of the qualifications of the slaughterer. He does not seem to like cleaning up after slaughtering; the materials, tackles, chains, tables, cleaver and walls of chambers are not attended to and kept as they should be, also the gullies and sinks are not kept clean and flushed.

The water question at the public slaughter house is still a difficulty. The windmill will not stand the force of the gales and is constantly out of action, so that water has to be



carried about a mile in the water cart to fill the tanks, which gives the slaughterers a good excuse for their indifference to cleanliness. Also the water provided when the windmill is working is not of the best quality owing to the position and close vicinity of the cesspit which is above the level of the well.

#### PRIVATE SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

	1920	Jan., 1925.	Dec, 1925.
Registered	3	3	3
Licensed	0	0	0
	—	—	—
Totals	3	3	3
	—	—	—

#### SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

This is supervised by the Sergt. of Police, who takes the samples and sends them to the Public Analyst—during the year 16 samples of milk, 2 butter, 1 lard and 1 margarine—all were found to be genuine with the exception of 2 samples of milk which contained 7% of added water in each case. The offenders were prosecuted, one being dismissed and the other fined 30/-

No action has been taken under the Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations, 1923, or Public Health (Dried Milk) Regulations, 1923.

#### SCAVENGING.

The house refuse is removed from the houses, the occupiers placing the refuse in a receptacle at the door, which is collected three times a week in carts and carried through the Town to the incinerator at Coombe, where it is burnt. The quantity averages about 80 tons per week. There is very little difficulty, and very few complaints as to the system, which works well. The clinker is used for filling in the Coombe Mud (a portion of the river which is being filled), and the tins are crushed in a machine and disposed of.

The householders have not yet fallen in line with the suggestion thrown out year after year, and that is to have proper covered sanitary dustbins, instead of which any kind of utensil, with or without a cover, which is unsightly, unhealthy, and creates a nuisance. I suppose they never will adopt the cleanly method until compelled to.

## WATER SUPPLY.

The supply of Water in the Borough is obtained from springs and a stream. There are 6 separate sources of supply, from 5 of which water is obtained by gravitation, and from 1 by pumping the water from a low level to a reservoir high up the hill.

1. Guttery Meadow. A covered reservoir, situated at an altitude of 249ft., having a storage capacity of 230,000 gallons. The water collected here is unfiltered.

2. Townstal. A covered reservoir of 45,000 galls. storage capacity, at an altitude of 350ft. The water from this source is delivered unfiltered. The source is a spring or springs.

3. Crosby Meadow. A covered reservoir of 35,000 galls. at an altitude of 187ft. The source is a spring said to issue from the rock. It is delivered unfiltered.

4 and 5. Laphorn and Bozomzeal. Derived from underground springs at Laphorn and Bozomzeal, about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the Town, and at altitudes of 300ft. and 225ft. respectively, the gathering ground being pasture land. The water from these two places is piped to a sand filter of 625ft. superficial area, and from this it gravitates to a covered reservoir, known as Coombe, of 96,000 gallons, from this reservoir a main descends into the Town and joining with the main from Guttery Meadow reservoir terminates at the Crosby reservoir, thus increasing, when necessary, the supply drawn from Crosby Meadow.

6. Old Mill Stream was taken in in 1907, which is an open stream intercepted at Old Mill. The water is passed through a sand filter into a storage reservoir of 114000 gallons capacity, and from there, pumped into 2 covered reservoirs, viz: Townstal Hill Wood, of 25,000 gallons, at an altitude of 220ft., and Longcross, containing 300,000 gallons, at an altitude of 480ft.

At Townstal Hill Wood, are also sand filters to which water is conveyed from 2 springs on the hillside above, when such water is attainable, this water flows into the Townstal Hill Wood from the sand filter.

There is another small supply collected from springs rising in pasture land at Lower Swannaton farm about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles out of the Town into a closed reservoir of 17000 gallons capacity, and is furnished to a small number of houses and several public conduits in South Town.

The bulk of the water supplied to the Town is chlorinated, a Paterson's Chlorinating Plant being installed at Old Mill, the strength used is 0.5 per million.

The amount in gallons supplied to the R.N. College for the past five years is as follows:

1920	...	6,074,550
1921	...	7,573,000
1922	...	5,748,000
1923	...	4,620,000
1924	...	3,642,000
1925	...	4,360,000

The amount supplied to the inhabitants of the Town is about 30 gallons per head per day.

The total storage capacity is about 731,000 gallons, equal to about four days' supply--an absolutely inadequate amount of storage for a town of this size, with the addition of the R.N. College which, for its size, takes an enormous quantity of water, as in dry weather in summer the daily supply runs very short. It should be at least equal to 30 days.

The analyses that have been taken during the year shows the quality to be very good, considering the water is derived from surface springs. The analyst, in his last report, says:

#### SAMPLE OF WATER BEFORE FILTRATION.

This sample is of very satisfactory purity. The number of Bacteria belonging to the type of *Bacillus Coli Communes* is hardly greater than may be sometimes found in filtered water.

#### Description of sample:

Characters	Before Filtration	After Filtration
Colour	...Colourless	...Colourless
Turbidity	...Clear	...Clear
Taste	...Natural	...Natural
Odour	...None	...None
Suspended matter	... A little detritus of Vegetation	...None

	Number per 100 cubic centimetres	
	Before Filtration.	After Filtration
Bacillus Coli Communis	20	0

Analysis. (Parts per hundred thousand)

	Before Filtration	After Filtration
Chlorine present as Chlorides	...2.2	2.2
Nitrogen present as Nitrates	...none	none
Nitrogen present as Nitrates	...0.34	0.34
Phosphates	...none	none
Sulphates	...none	none
Total hardness, equivalent to Calcium Carbonate.	...8.0	7.9
Temporary hardness (altered by boiling)	...6.1	6.1
Permanent hardness (not altered by boiling)	...1.9	1.8
Saline Ammonia	...0.0010	none
Albuminoid Ammonia	...0.0010	0.0010
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80° F.	...none	none
Oxygen absorbed immediately	...none	none
Lead	...none	none
Copper	...none	none
Zinc	...none	none
Iron	...none	none
Total solid constituents	...14.6	15.4
Organic matter observed in igniting solid constituents	...none	none
Loss of solid constituents on ignition	...none	none

SAMPLE OF WATER AFTER FILTRATION.

The sample shows an efficient working of the filters. The purity is satisfactory in all respects.

There is a constant supply, but water tanks are used in those houses in which the water is laid on.

To a number of the poorer class of house and tenements, no public water supply is laid into the house, the inmates have to obtain water from the public conduits, which means that the water closets have no water for flushing but have to be flushed by hand.

At Townstal Hill Wood, additional springs have been located and a small dam has been built in the valley, thereby increasing the quantity of water to Townstal Hill Wood reservoir. There has been a general overhaul of the filters and reservoir, which have been cleaned and leaky spots renewed.

## RIVERS AND STREAMS.

There is no pollution of rivers or streams in the area. The river at Dartmouth being a large tidal estuary, there is not much opportunity for pollution.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Town is provided with efficient sewerage, and the natural gradients, are such, that there is sufficient fall to obviate flushing. Ventilation is provided for, by a number of 6in. ventilation shafts at the higher points. The sewerage is carried direct into the river Dart, by 4 or 5 separate sewers. The outfalls of which are below low water mark. The number of new drains laid during the year is 6. The Closet Accommodation of the Town is of the water carriage type. There are no privies or earth closets, but as said before, some of these closets have only hand flushing, owing to the water not being laid on in the houses. There has been great improvement during the past 5 years by increasing the number of w.c.'s to the tenements.

## HOUSING.

The housing question is a very difficult problem for an old Town like Dartmouth with such a circumscribed building area, a large number of the buildings are very old and have been built indiscriminately without any consideration of air space, and are mostly built of soft stone, with timber frames stuccoed over. Of course the more modern houses are built with brick and in accordance with the Bye-Laws, but the difficulty is with the old houses—not only those that are let as tenements, but the houses in which other classes live; and not only individual houses but groups of houses—where they are so crowded together, almost back to back, with little or no air space between, and would be a positive death trap in case of fire, besides being detrimental to health. Such areas as: The Quay from the Castle Hotel, around Duke Street; Duke Street and Anzac Street; Foss Street and Market Street; the east side of Higher Street through to Fairfax Place. A number of houses are built with the lower floors directly against the bank, and



so are always very damp, such as North Ford Road; Orchard Terrace; Lake Street; Clarence Street; Undercliffe; also some of the old better class houses in South Town. The condition of many of the individual houses, is such, that all the money and labour spent upon them will never put them in the condition of a modern house; nothing short of demolition will be of any use. Many would describe this demolition of these old houses as vandalism, but public health has to be considered before ancient history. Then comes another difficulty, if these areas are pulled down the same number of houses could not be built upon the sites as the Bye-Laws concerning air space and other requirements if carried out would curtail the number of houses, which means, extending the Town on the hill. Also a large amount of temporary new building must be done first, to accommodate the displaced population, otherwise the people who are turned out of their homes will only drift into other parts of the Town which are already overcrowded.

The amount of house building in the Borough during the past five years has been very small, and chiefly of the small perishable bungalow type. Beyond the erection of the twelve flats in Higher Street by the Corporation, which are not yet occupied, nothing has been done in the way of housing for the working classes. I should think at least 100 houses, if not more, are required for the poorer portion of the community to meet the situation. The population is fairly stable. The census of 1881 showed 6025, and the census of 1921 showed 7219, an increase of 1194 in 40 years, and that increase is largely made up by the Cadets and staff of the R.N. College, who reside in the Government Buildings, so it is difficult to discover the shortage of houses. There is no doubt there is a large amount of overcrowding—two and three families living in the same house. The reason is obvious, and until more houses are built nothing can be done to remedy it. I would suggest the erection of a sufficient number of wooden workmen's huts as a temporary measure whilst other provision is being made. It would also give the authority time and opportunity to demolish and rearrange the building of the crowded areas.

Regarding the unfitness of houses. The general standard of houses is poor. A large number of them are built "back to earth" in a greater or less degree, or without back outlets, such as portends in Lake Street, Undercliffe, and other parts of the town.

Houses built during the past five years—					
1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
2	3	1	6	5	6

The Sanitary Conveniences are placed anywhere in these old houses—under the stairs; what was intended for a cupboard; or in any out-of-the-way corner, without any pretensions to having the w.c. separate from the house, or properly ventilated in any manner. The curtilages and passages of many of these houses are in a very bad state, and should be paved and drained. Also there is a great tendency to build lean-to sheds and out-houses in the curtilages and yards adjoining the backs of the houses, so that the living room or kitchen is deprived of air and light.

The supply of bath-rooms is conspicuous by their absence, and those that have them do not use them, largely due, I believe, to the fact that there is a special water rate placed upon a house with a bath installation—which one might call a premium on cleanliness. It would be better if the bath rate were absorbed in the general water rate and let all and every have baths without extra rating. And also, as I have said above, a large number of the houses are built directly under the roads and banks that it is impossible to keep the lower parts of the house dry and free from damp. Also houses have no water supply: the water being drawn from an adjoining conduit leaves the w.c.s to be flushed by hand.

The want of care, management and supervision is an important element in the housing question, but in many cases it is impossible for them to do much short of demolition and rebuilding; and as to waste and neglect by tenants, this is a great problem to contend with, for some of the tenants—placed in palaces—would have them like pigstyes in less than a month.

There are Building Byelaws in force. All plans of new buildings are put before the Council before being accepted, to see that they conform with the Byelaws. 31 sets of plans have been presented to the Council during the year.

A large number of Inspections of existing properties have been made during the year; Intimation and Statutory Notices being served. 31 complaints of nuisances were made, and 25 Notices issued for abatement of same. The total number of nuisances abated during the year was 45, and 1 conviction for the abatement of a nuisance was made.

There were 21 cases of insufficient water closet accommodation, of which number 19 were remedied.

Number of New Houses built during the year :

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b) ... ..	6
(b) With state assistance under the Housing Acts.	
i. By the Local Authority ...	Nil
ii. By other Bodies or Persons ...	Nil

I.—Unfit Dwelling Houses.

Inspection.

1. Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	104
2. Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... ..	18
3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	1
4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	8

II.—Remedy of defects without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... ..	16
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III.—Action under Statutory Powers.

A. Proceedings under Sect. 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	23
2. Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices (a) by owners	0
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ...	0
3. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close ...	0



## B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

1.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	25
2.	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices ...	21
(a)	By owners ... ..	21
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ...	0

## c. Proceedings under Sects. 11, 14 and 15, of the Housing Act, 1925.

1.	Number of representations made with a view to making of closing orders ... ..	1
2.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders were made ... ..	0
3.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit ... ..	0
4.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made ... ..	0
5.	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition order ... ..	0

## 1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, AND WORKPLACES

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances

		No. of Inspections		No. of Written Notices.		No. of Prosecutions.
Factories (including	Factory					
Laundries) ... ..	...	15	...	3	...	0
Workshops (including	Workshop					
Laundries) ... ..	...	48	...	1	...	0
Workplaces (other than	Out-					
workers' Premises ...	...	9	...	1	...	0
		<u>72</u>		<u>5</u>		<u>0</u>

## DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS &amp; WORKPLACES

Particulars	No. of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions			
	Found	Remed'd	Referred to Inspector				
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts.—							
Want of cleanliness	5	5	—	—			
Want of ventilation	1	1	—	—			
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—			
Want of drainage of floors	—	—	—	—			
Other Nuisances	—	—	—	—			
Sanitary	2	1	—	—			
Accommoda- } insufficient...					—	—	—
tion. } unsuitable or defective..					—	—	—
	—	—	—	—			
	—	—	—	—			
not separate for sexes...	—	—	—	—			
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts—							
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse	—	—	—	—			
(s. 101)	—	—	—	—			
Other offences	—	—	—	—			
(excluding offences relating to outwork and							
offences under the sections mentioned in							
the schedule to the Ministry of Health							
(Factories and Workshops Transfer of							
Powers) Order, 1921.)	—	—	—	—			
Total	8	7	—	—			

The working of the Factory Acts in Dartmouth during the year 1925 has been very satisfactory. There is very little difficulty as the place is small, and the number of factories limited. There are the engineering works, paint works, gas works, three small boat building yards, steam laundry, four motor garages, two printing establishments, several builders who have mechanical appliances, and also several dressmakers, but none on what may be called a large scale. All these carry out the requirements of the Act in the form of washing and sanitary conveniences, the display of the Abstract of the Factory and Workshops Acts and other required notices; and those who are required to do so are provided with First Aid Dressing Boxes. The number of defects found has been very small, as Form 572 will show. Accidents, beyond very trivial ones, have been con-

spicuous by their absence, neither has there been any sickness caused by dangerous and unhealthy industries (lead, phosphorus, arsenical, mercurial poisoning or anthrax.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN H. HARRIS, M D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.





